

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN SEPTEMBER 2005

Domestic mine production, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 38,400 metric tons (t) in September, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was an increase of about 3% compared with production in August 2005 and an increase of about 4% compared with that of September 2004. Secondary refined lead production (93,000 t) decreased 2% compared with that of the previous month and reported consumption (123,000 t) was down by about 2% compared with that of August. When compared with that of September 2004, secondary production was down by about 2% and reported consumption was up by about 11%.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average September North American producer price increased nominally (about 0.2%) from that of the previous month to 60.60 cents per pound and was about 3% higher than the September 2004 price. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price in September ranged from a low of \$881 per

metric ton (September 15) to a high of \$1,015 per metric ton (September 28), and averaged \$932.27 per metric ton, about a 5% increase compared with the August price and comparable with the price in September 2004. During September, global LME lead stocks decreased by 15,050 t to 39,000 t.

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in September, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Lead-005, was 2,799 t, with an approximate value of \$3.25 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces lead BOA sales for September 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, October 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2004		2005		
	Year	January - September	August	September	January - September
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	430,000	324,000 ^r	37,400 ^r	38,400	320,000
Primary refinery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	838,000 ^r	92,600	90,800	831,000
Estimated	11,300	8,470 ^r	936	917	8,400
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000	11,300	1,250	1,250	11,300
Total secondary	1,140,000	858,000 ^r	94,800	93,000	851,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Primary refineries	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary smelters and consumers	66,100	66,000	56,200 ^r	58,300	58,300
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	3	3	18	NA	29 ²
Refined metal	197,000	140,000	23,000	NA	191,000 ²
Consumption:					
Reported	1,480,000	1,110,000 ^r	126,000	123,000	1,120,000
Undistributed ^c	44,300	33,200 ^r	3,770	3,690	33,600
Total	1,520,000	1,140,000 ^r	129,000	127,000	1,150,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	292,000	207,000	161,000	NA	260,000 ²
Bullion	129	69	41	NA	134 ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,400	64,700	5,940	NA	40,400 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,020	583	51	NA	1,110 ²
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	56,300	41,300	5,570	NA	46,500 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	55.14	53.29	60.46	60.60	60.66

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes data for January - August only; September data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	LME		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2004:				
September	58.98	934.92	521.23	1.793671
December	60.73	974.39	505.22	1.928639
Year	55.14	885.95	483.26	1.832475
2005:				
July	60.36	854.07	487.83	1.750745
August	60.46	886.53	494.05	1.794426
September	60.60	932.27	516.05	1.806548

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	August 31, 2005			September 30, 2005
Battery-lead	12,800	81,700	81,300	13,200
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	13,500	13,400	13,800	13,200
Total	26,300	95,100	95,100	26,300
Percent change from preceding month	XX	-1.9	-2.0	0.1

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap not elsewhere classified.

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN SEPTEMBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	68,100	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	22,400	(2)	(2)
Other ³	379	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	90,800	140	268

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other." -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

³Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2004		2005		
	January - December	January - September ^r	August	September	January - September
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	61,500	46,100	5,090	5,440	44,300
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	4,190	3,140	281	382	2,630
Cable covering, power and communication and cabling lead, building construction	5,540	4,150	413	497	4,160
Casting metals	17,900	13,400	1,490	1,490	13,400
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	32,400	24,300	2,690	2,730	24,400
Solder	7,440	5,580	632	543	5,530
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,290,000	965,000	110,000	107,000	982,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	1,770	1,330	185	185	2,270
Total metal products	1,420,000	1,060,000	121,000	118,000	1,080,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	59,600	44,700	4,870	4,800	42,600
Total reported	1,480,000	1,110,000	126,000	123,000	1,120,000
Undistributed ^c	44,300	33,200	3,770	3,690	33,600
Grand total	1,520,000	1,140,000	129,000	127,000	1,150,000

^cEstimated. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS,
AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks August 31, 2005	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks September 30, 2005
Soft lead	32,300	66,600	66,400	32,500
Antimonial lead	10,800	35,000	36,100	9,680
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	59,200	121,000	122,000	58,300

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons)

	2004		2005		
	August	Year	July	August	January - August
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	53,800	292,000	20,800	161,000	260,000
Bullion	5	129	6	41	134
Materials excluding scrap	5,170	82,400	4,090	5,940	40,400
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	11	1,020	47	51	1,110
Total	59,000	375,000	24,900	167,000	302,000
Gross weight: Scrap	4,280	56,300	5,090	5,570	46,500

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF LEAD BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2004		2005			2004		2005		
	Year	January - August	July	August	January - August	Year	January - August	July	August	January - August
Base bullion:										
Canada	--	--	--	18	18	--	--	--	18	18
Mexico	3	3	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	--	10
Total	3	3	--	18	29	3	3	--	18	29
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	--	--	--	--	18,800	13,700	11,200	5,590	2,750	27,100
Canada	166,000	102,000	14,200	11,800	127,000	166,000	102,000	14,200	11,800	127,000
Mexico	8,810	7,720	1,810	3,530	9,330	8,810	7,720	1,810	3,530	9,330
Peru	7,270	3,160	3,170	2,880	13,500	7,270	3,160	3,170	2,880	13,500
Other	1,310	1,250	2,680	2,030	13,900	1,450	1,380	2,690	2,030	13,900
Total	183,000	114,000	21,900	20,200	183,000	197,000	125,000	27,500	23,000	191,000
Grand total	183,000	114,000	21,900	20,300	183,000	197,000	125,000	27,500	23,000	191,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.